

Amendments to the Claims

15. (Canceled) [A sterile heat exchanger for controlling the temperature of a physiological fluid comprising a central tube having high heat conductivity for carrying a temperature-controlled fluid, an outer tube shorter than said central tube and surrounding a part of said central tube to form a helical passageway for said physiological fluid between said central and outer tubes, and first and second end caps, each of said end caps having a first part extending axially along an outer surface of said outer tube and being sealed and secured to said outer surface and a second part sealingly engaging said central tube to ensure maintenance of sterility during operation, said second part comprising an elongate cylindrical opening engaging an outer surface of said central tube and extending away from said first part and wherein said central tube extends beyond each of said second parts and forms two elongate connections for being slidingly received in respective elongate recesses.]

D₁

16. (Amended) A heat exchanger according to claim [15] 19 wherein said central tube is of aluminum.

D₂

17. (Amended) A heat exchanger according to claim [15] 19 wherein said central tube has an exterior surface providing increased surface area.

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19. (Amended) [A heat exchanger according to claim 15] A sterile heat exchanger for controlling the temperature of a physiological fluid comprising a central tube having high heat conductivity for carrying a temperature-controlled fluid, an outer tube shorter than said central tube and surrounding a part of said central tube to form a passageway for said physiological fluid between said central and outer tubes, and first and second end caps, each of said end caps having a first part extending axially along an outer surface of said outer tube and being sealed and secured to said outer surface and a second part sealingly engaging said central tube to ensure maintenance of sterility during operation, said second part comprising an elongate cylindrical opening engaging an outer surface of said central tube and extending away from said first part and wherein

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said inner tube extends beyond each of said second parts and forms two elongate connections for being slidingly received in an elongate recess, wherein each of said end caps includes a port for communicating a fluid to be warmed with said passageway.
